

**STATEMENT FROM H.E. FATUMANAVA III DR PA'OLELEI LUTERU,
AMBASSADOR OF THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF SAMOA AND CHAIRMAN OF
THE OACPS COMMITTEE OF AMBASSADORS ON THE CELEBRATION OF THE
OACPS' 1st ANNIVERSARY**

One of the core mission of any organisation during its lifetime is to become more relevant, agile, and fit for purpose to take on the challenges of its membership and to deliver on the promises underpinning its creation. Under its revised Constitution in 2020, the former ACP Group of States reformed and renamed itself as the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, bringing into fruition one of the aspirations and the vision of the authors of the Georgetown Agreement. The first anniversary of the Organisation's journey under its new name is now being celebrated. It is an auspicious moment and marks a year of unprecedented turmoil and challenges brought about by the covid-19 pandemic. We all have to readjust, reset and do the best we can under the circumstances. This applies in equal measure to our Secretariat.

As we look to the future, there is every reason to be optimistic. To be proud of where we are and confident in our ability to scale new heights in our relations with global partners and, in particular, the European Union. The conclusion of negotiations for a new agreement to guide the OACPS-EU partnership for the next 25 years is, in itself, an achievement to be proud of. Yet, much work remains to be accomplished requiring the OACPS to be bold and courageous, and to stand together in unity and solidarity, the hallmark of our continued existence.

On behalf of the OACPS Committee of Ambassadors and in my capacity as its chair, I extend congratulations and best wishes for continued growth, relevance, unity in purpose and solidarity in actions of our Organisation as we continue our collective efforts to chart a course for sustainable development and prosperity for all our communities.